

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- Sub A1
1. A slave test unit for testing voice signal quality over phone connections, comprising:
- at least two phone line connectors attached to separate phone lines;
- means for transmitting and receiving electrical signals via the phone line connectors, the electrical signals being transmitted and received between the slave test unit and at least one remote test unit, the electrical signals received from the at least one remote test unit comprising test commands;
- means for decoding the test commands from the electrical signals received from the at least one remote test unit, and;
- means for executing the test commands;
- whereby the test commands executed by the slave test unit are received exclusively from the at least one remote test unit.
- Sub C2
2. The slave test unit of claim 1, further comprising means for encoding the test commands into the electrical signals sent via the phone line connectors to the at least one remote test unit.
3. The slave test unit of claim 1, wherein one of the test commands is a dialback command.
4. The slave test unit of claim 1, wherein one of the test commands is a loopback command.

5. The slave test unit of claim 1, wherein one of the test commands is a  
2 quiet termination command.

6. The slave test unit of claim 1, wherein the remote test unit is a master  
2 test unit possessing a human operator interface.

7. The slave test unit of claim 1, wherein the remote test unit is another  
2 slave test unit.

8. The slave test unit of claim 1, wherein the test commands are encoded  
2 and received as DTMF signals.

9. The slave test unit of claim 1, wherein at least one of the phone line  
2 connectors is adapted for FXO/FXS telephone ports.

10. The slave test unit of claim 1, wherein at least one of the phone line  
2 connectors is adapted for E&M telephone ports.

Sub  
A<sup>2</sup> 2

11. A method for testing voice signal quality over phone connections,  
comprising the steps of:  
establishing at least one phone connection, whereby each of the at least one  
4 phone connections is made with a separate remote test unit;  
receiving electrical signals, the electrical signals being received from the  
6 remote test units associated with the at least one phone connections, the electrical  
signals comprising test commands;  
8 decoding the test commands from the electrical signals being received from  
the remote test units; and  
10 executing the test commands, the test commands being received exclusively  
from the remote test units.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein one of the test commands executed  
2 in the executing step is a dialback command.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein one of the test commands executed  
2 in the executing step is a loopback command.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein one of the test commands executed  
2 in the executing step is a quiet termination command.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein one of the test commands executed  
2 in the executing step is an encoding and transmission of the test commands via the at  
least one phone connection.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein the remote test unit is a master test  
2 unit.

17. The method of claim 11, wherein the remote test unit is a slave test  
2 unit.

18. The method of claim 11, wherein the test commands of the receiving  
2 step are encoded by the remote test units as DTMF signals.